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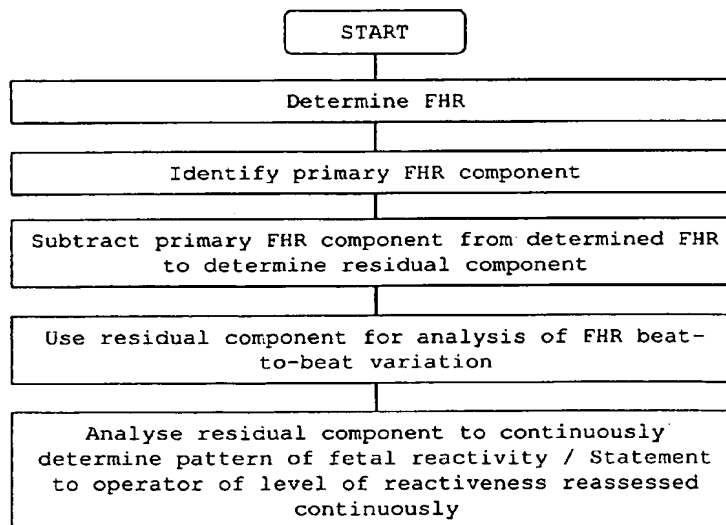
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(54) Title: ASSESSMENT OF FETAL REACTIVITY BY FETAL HEART RATE ANALYSIS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the field of fetal heart rate (FHR) monitoring. In particular, it relates to monitoring during periods of so-called non-stationary fetal heart rate patterns, such as those that occur during labour. The invention provides an improved apparatus, method and computer program for more clear analysis of FHR variations, such that fetal distress can be correctly assessed earlier. According to one aspect, the invention comprises means for determining a fetal heart rate, means for identifying a primary fetal heart rate component, means for subtracting the primary component from the determined fetal heart rate to determine a residual component, and means for using said residual component for analysis of the fetal heart rate beat-to-beat variation.

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